

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0121

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PGOV FR WB GE US
SUBJ: SPANGENBERG'S NEW DUAL FUNCTIONS IN BONN AND BERLIN

1. SUMMARY. STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT HIS ASSUMPTION OF SECOND DISTINCT STATE SECRETARYSHIP IN MINISTRY FOR INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS. USBER CONCLUDES THAT AIM OF THIS MOVE IS TO PREEMPT DE FACTO AUTHORITY ON ALL-GERMAN POLICY AWAY FROM MINISTRY TO CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, AND WITHIN SPD TO SMALL GROUP OF CURRENT MANAGERS OF BERLIN POLICY. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW FONMIN GENSCHER WILL REACT TO THIS, OR INDEED HOW IT WILL BE RECEIVED WITHIN THE SPD BY BRANDT, BAHR AND WEHNER, WHO ARE THEMSELVES ERECTING SEPARATE NEW PARTY MECHANISM PARTLY AS DEVICE BUREAUCRATICALLY TO ENHANCE THEIR INFLUENCE ON BERLIN DECISIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AT LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 11 WITH REPS OF THREE MISSIONS, STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS NEW FUNCTIONS IN A SECOND SIMULTANEOUS STATE SECRETARYSHIP, THAT OF THE INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, WHICH HE WILL CLOTHE AS OF O/A FEBRUARY 1. IN NARRATIVE AND RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS FOLLOWS:

3. HE WAS INITIALLY RELUCTANT TO TRY FOR THE JOB, NOT BECAUSE OF THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BUT BECAUSE OF THE HEAD-KNOCKING HE KNEW WOULD ENSURE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF. NEGOTIATIONS WERE FROM DECEMBER 20-22, AND ALTHOUGH THERE WERE HEADACHES HE HAD ESSENTIALLY ACHIEVED WHAT HE WANTED.

4. HIS DUTIES AND RELATIONSHIPS COULD BE DEFINED SO:

(A) HE WAS STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS WITH RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS AND TO "HELP FORM PUBLIC OPINION."

(B) HE HAD INDICATED HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN EXCHANGE OF PERSONS OR ECONOMIC BUILDUP POLICY FOR POOR BORDER AREAS. COMMENT. EXCHANGES AND PREFERENTIAL ECONOMIC HELP FOR POOR FRG BORDER ZONES ARE HEAVY BUDGET ITEMS, BUT INVOLVE ENORMOUS DETAIL WORK, AND/OR ARE SECRET. THE BERLIN DIVIDENT IS MINOR. END COMMENT.

(C) HE RETAINED HIS OFFICE AND STAFF IN CHANCELLERY IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF FEDERAL REP IN BERLIN.

(D) DE FACTO, HE REPORTED TO MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNESWKI.

(E) WISCHNEWSKI, SENATOR STOBBE, STATE SECRETARY GAUS AND SPANGENBERG WOULD CONSULT CLOSELY, AND IN FACT HAD SET A WEEKLY "JOUR FIXE" ON WHICH TO GET TOGETHER. COMMENT. IN A CONVERSATION OF JANUARY 10, SENATOR STOBBE EXPLAINED THAT THE FOUR WOULD FORM A "POOL", WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT VAN WELL. WHEN ASKED HOW GENSCHER WOULD REACT TO THE PREDOMINANT SPD WEIGHT OF THIS GROUP, STOBBE DENIED THAT IT WAS A FORMAL BODY (INSTANZ), AND SAID HE HOPED HIS MENTION OF IT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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"CONFINED TO THIS ROOM." HE SHOWED ALARM AT THE THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT HAVE STIMULATED A GREED FOR INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD THE WESTERN ALLIES TO INDISCREET FOLLOW-UPS. END COMMENT.

(F) HE WOULD SPEND, ACCORDING TO HIS PRESENT PLANS, MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN BONN, AND THE REST OF THE TIME IN BERLIN.

(G) HE WAS NOT OBLIGED TO PRESENT OR DEFEND ALL-GERMAN POLICY IN THE PARLIAMENT PLENUM OR COMMITTEES. THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY COULD DO THAT.

5. SPANGENBERG CONCEDED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD BY NO MEANS BEEN FACILITATED BY INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE. IN FACT HE HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO THE POINT OF REQUIRING VERY STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE CHANCELLOR. AT THE LAST MINUTE FRANKE HAD FURTHER BALKED WITH THE DEMAND THAT SPANGENBERG'S BERLIN OFFICE BE PLACED UNDER HIM. FRANKE HAD ALSO LOST ON THIS.

6. THERE WERE SOME RATHER PRO FORMA ALLIED MISSION EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET THAT THE NEW SCHEDULE WOULD KEEP HIM UNAVAILABLE TO US FOR SO MUCH OF THE TIME. WHEN WE ASKED WHOM WE MIGHT CONTACT AS A SUBSTITUTE IN HIS OFFICE, SPANGENBERG SAID THAT HE WOULD PREFER THAT THE ALLIES AVOID HIS BERLIN STAFF IN HIS ABSENCE.

7. APANGENBERG, AS DID STOBBE AND SCHUETZ TO US ON EARLIER OCCASIONS, HIGHLY PRAISED WISCHNEWSKI AND ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HIS ROLE AS STATE MINISTER CONCENTRATING ON BERLIN AND OSTPOLITIK.

8. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE CHANCELLOR AND THE SPD GOVERNMENT TEAM HAVE REARRANGED THEIR CHANNELS AND PLAYERS TO DETERMINE POST-1976 BERLIN POLICY. THE KEY DEVELOPMENT SEEMS TO BE THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE BONN ALL-GERMAN POLICY AREANA OF WISCHNEWSKI AND SPANGENBERG. CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE ARE ARTIFICIAL ELEMENTS IN THE SCHEME, I.E., PRESUMED SECRET "POOL" MEETINGS, AND SPANGENBERG'S PERFORMANCE AS STATE SECRETARY IN TWO DIFFERENT OFFICES, WHICH ENABLES HIM TO SIPHON OFF AUTHORITY FROM THE CAPTIVE INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY. BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND MAYOR GOVERNING SCHUETZ ARE INVOLVED, AND IN SPITE OF REPORTED COOLNESS BETWEEN THEM, SCHUETZ PROFESSES PLEASURE WITH THE ARRANGEMENT.

9. IN ESSENCE THIS INNER GROUP HAS RESORTED TO THE OLD DEVICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE GERRYMANDERING, I.E., THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED A RUBE GOLDBERG WORK FLOW BY WHICH THEY HOPE TO CENTRALIZE AND FACILITATE DECISION MAKING. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, DO NOT ALWAYS FUNCTION WELL UNDER TURBULENCE, AND THE FRG MAY BE HEADING INTO JUST THAT.

10. AS OF NOW TO SAY THE LEAST THE NEW DISPENSATION HAS STILL TO PROVE ITSELF. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW FONMIN GENSCHER WILL REACT TO THIS HEAVY SPD APPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY ON BERLIN. AND IT IS UNCLEAR HOW THESE SPD GOVERNMENT PRACTITIONERS-INCLUDING THE CHANCELLOR--WILL INTERACT WITH THE AMBITIOUS BUT VAGUE IDEOLOGUES BRANDT AND BAHR, WHO HAVE THEIR OWN NEW MECHANISM IN THE SPD COMMISSION ON BERLIN.

11. PLEASE DO NOT ATTRIBUTE ABOVE TO STOBBE AND SPANGENBERG. END COMMENT.DAVIS

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